Advance estimates given by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, wheat production in crop year 2005-06 is expected to be 73.06 million tonnes as against 72 million tonnes last year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Price increase of PDS rice and wheat

2450. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the prices of PDS rice and wheat enhanced after the present Government assumed power and the details thereof;

(b) the foodgrains allocated to Kerala for distributing to the BPL cardholders and the requirement prescribed by Government for each cardholder per month;

(c) whether any variations brought into the notice relating to the insufficiency of foodgrains allotment and actual BPL families in Kerala and whether any reduction of scale of distribution is maintained in Kerala to cover the existing BPL families; and

(d) whether Government consider to approve the BPL families identified by the State Government and allot the foodgrains to those families also?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There has been no increase in prices of PDS rice and wheat since the present Government assumed power.

(b) 54,384 tonnes of foodgrains are allocated to the State of Kerala for 15.54 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL), including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), households per month. Foodgrains are allocated @35 kgs. per household per month for AAY, BPL and APL population of the State.

(c) and (d) A request was received from the Government of Kerala in which Government of India have been requested to approve the number of BPL households identified by the State Government and to make

necessary budget provision to allot foodgrains at the BPL rates to the increased BPL households identified in the State.

For allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS, the BPL households are estimated on the basis of the poverty estimate of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population projection of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000. This policy is followed uniformly for all the States/UTs. As per this formula the total BPL (including AAY) households estimated for the State of Kerala is 15.54 lakhs and allocation of foodgrains is being made to State of Kerala accordingly. Therefore, the request of the State Government for additional allocation to kerala as per the BPL households identified by the State Government has not been accepted.

BPL familes under TPDS

2451. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than two crore BPL families are not covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of bogus BPL ration cards are in existence;

(d) if so, the number of such ration cards in Delhi and the quantum of foodgrains drawn against those ration cards; and

(e) the measures taken to cancel all such ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As against the 6.52 crore PBL households as on 01-03-2000 as per the poverty estimates of Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 being followed for allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), about 9.73 crore BPL families have been identified and issued distinctive ration cards by the State Governments in the country. The States/UTs of Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep are yet to complete identification of BPL families.